Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 04 Jan 2023 until 23:59 on Thursday 05 Jan 2023

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 03 Jan 2023 at 12:30

Confidence: High for the general theme of low pressure systems and fronts to move east or northeast across the British Isles, but Medium to Low for details, especially in relation to timings and rainfall amounts.

Headline for Wednesday 04 Jan 2023: Mostly cloudy and windy, with outbreaks of heavy rain.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 04 Jan 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Medium Likelihood

Storm force winds
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Light rain	Light rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Light rain
Precipitation probability							
>95%	60%	40%	80%	70%	60%	60%	40%

Forecast for Wednesday 04 Jan 2023

Weather: Cloudy overnight but rain will turn patchy. Then a cloudy and damp start with patchy rain and cloud will thicken and lower again in morning to bring longer spells of occasionally heavy rain. Cloud beginning to lift and break as most of the rain clears in late evening

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 30% becoming almost nil in morning.

Low cloud and visibility: Moderate to good visibility beneath cloud, but poor at times in rain and very poor within cloud, periods 600-900m at first but soon extensive down to 500 or 600m, with patches 400m in rain, though periods 300-400m on western slopes..

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Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Wednesday 04 Jan 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	48/61 SW	45/58 SW	44/57 SW	42/55 W	37/50 W	36/49 W	37/51 W	32/44 W	29/40 W
600	36/50 SW	36/50 SW	36/51 SW	34/49 W	30/44 W	30/44 W	30/45 W	27/40 W	24/36 W
300	25/39 SW	24/40 SW	26/42 SW	25/40 W	24/37 W	21/36 W	22/37 W	21/33 W	18/30 W
Valley	26/39 SW	25/37 SW	27/39 SW	27/38 SW	26/35 SW	26/34 SW	25/33 W	18/31 W	16/28 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	6/-1	4/-3	4/-4	3/-4	3/-4	3/-4	3/-5	3/-4	2/-5
600	8/2	6/0	5/-1	5/-1	5/-1	5/-1	5/-1	5/-1	4/-2
300	9/6	8/5	8/4	7/3	7/4	7/4	7/3	7/3	6/3
Valley	10/7	10/7	9/6	9/6	9/6	9/6	9/6	9/6	8/5
Freezing Level*	2000m	1600m	1500m	1500m	1500m	1400m	1400m	1400m	1300m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Some chill over the tops with rain and gale force winds, bringing marked buffeting and movement difficulties at height. Also some movement difficulties at lower levels, with wet and soggy conditions and fast flowing waterways.

Forecast for Thursday 05 Jan 2023

Weather: Rain clearing overnight then some breaks in the cloud, but patchy low cloud likely to form, especially onto western slopes. Cloud thickening and lowering in morning to bring outbreaks of rain and drizzle, this becoming heavier and more prolonged rain through the afternoon.

Maximum wind: Westerly 15-20mph at first, becoming southwesterly 25-30 gust 40mph in morning, but 35-45 guts 60mph over the summits later.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60% at first, but almost nil from mid-morning.

Low cloud and visibility: Mainly good visibility at first, but becoming moderate occasionally poor in rain and very poor within cloud at height, mainly patchy above 600m at first, but becoming extensive above 500 or 600m through the morning, and lowering to 300 or 400m at times in afternoon, especially in west.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 8 C rising to 10-12 C
At 800m: Plus 2 rising to plus 4 or 5 C
Freezing level: Above the tops

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 3 January 2023. Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:30. Full report: Following Monday's glorious weather, today was a sense of humour testing day on the fells as the walk was accompanied with constant rain (sometimes horizontal) up to and including summit level. Fresh snow has fallen overnight deposited on strong S to SW winds and settled above 750m. Actual coverage varies considerably from nothing on windswept areas – such as large parts of the summit plateau – to drifts able to swallow a 55cm ice axe, although such depth is exceptional. The deepest drifts are found on steep N and E facing aspects above 850m and also in sheltered spots and hollows. The snow was soft, wet and thawing at all levels – it was plus 2 degrees on the summit around midday. However, sometimes the snow lay above old compacted snow and ice and there was also windslab (loose snow) especially above 900m. Above 550m, especially in the morning, there were occasional patches of ice on paths and these were sometimes intermingled with puddles of water and slush making conditions treacherous.

Cornices have formed above steep N and E facing aspects – such as along Helvellyn's summit plateau. Owing to limited visibility, it was not safe to inspect these but they consist of soft, wet thawing snow so will be extremely unstable. Thus please stay well away from such snow covered edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. Despite the milder temperatures, the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) was minus 7 degrees C at midday, so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including torch, map and compass and the ability to use them in potentially poor visibility such as low cloud are all essential to safely enjoy the fells. Although temperatures are forecast to rise, with the summit temperature at only plus 2 degrees it would not take much for the currently soft, wet snow to freeze and harden. Thus walkers heading above the snowline, and especially those attempting steep and exposed routes (such as Striding and Swirral Edges), should also consider carrying an ice axe and crampons/microspikes. The latter were especially useful today in the current mixed conditions.

Temperature: plus 2.5 C, Maximum wind speed 42.2 mph, Wind chill: minus 6.8 C, Average wind speed: 36.3 mph

Issued at: 1230 on Tue 03 Jan 2023

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